

In-Fur-Nation

Your Guide to the World of Furry Fandom

Volume 18, Number 4

All The News We Get, We Print!

Fall, 2007

"Spider Pig, Spider Pig. Does whatever a Spider Pig does." – Homer Simpson, of his pet pig, from Fox's *The Simpsons Movie*.

Another summer come and gone, another San Diego Comic Con... and another quarter-million fans take over the city! Film at eleven. Meanwhile, enjoy this sampling of Furry News we're bringing you...

The News

The jury is out as to whether Disney/Pixar's 2007 offering, *Ratatouille*, was a success at the box office or not. While the film did eventually reach "blockbuster" status (Hollywood-speak for \$200 million or more at the box office in the U.S.), the **Brad Bird**-directed rats-in-the-kitchen film took much longer to get there than *Cars* did last year. And, of course, neither one of them (or several other computer-animated films released this year) came anywhere near the box office heights of *Finding Nemo* in 2003, which inevitably has several Hollywood spin doctors talking about a "downturn" in interest for CGI films. Is there? *Shrek the Third* made it over the \$300 million mark, as widely expected, but seemed to be largely forgotten as soon as it left the multiplexes. *Surf's Up* received mucho kudos for its technical advances ("hand held cameras" in an animated film! Waves that look like real water!) but somehow didn't connect with audiences enough to top \$100 million. Other CGI films that did make money (like *TMNT*, "way back" in the spring) did so largely because of their relatively low budgets. What's it all mean? Well, perhaps you can decide for yourself. All of these films are out on DVD now.

File this under "Not a furry film, but...": Critics have been giving very high marks to Disney's new holiday feature *Enchanted*. The film (directed by *Tarzan* and *A Goofy Movie* veteran **Kevin Lima**) follows the adventures of an animated would-be fairytale princess named Giselle (Oscar nominee **Amy Adams**, who was recently the voice of Polly Purebred in *Underdog*), who (of course) runs afoul of an evil queen and sorceress (**Susan Sarandon**). Giselle finds herself magically exiled to modern day New York, where she finds herself as a live-action character who falls under the care of a lonely divorce lawyer played by **Patrick Dempsey** (the voice of Kenai in *Brother Bear 2*. Hey, how 'bout that? Both the leads have brother talking animals!). The film also features a plethora of talking animals in the animated sequences, one of whom (named Pip) winds up in New York as a chipmunk who can't talk – but who pantomimes like a looney.

More furry side characters... Lots and LOTS of them! Everyone's talking about *The Golden Compass*, New Line Cinema's epic feature film adaptation of the first novel in **Phillip Pullman's** massive and popular *His Dark Materials*

trilogy. For those not familiar: The story involves the concept of parallel worlds, and follows the adventures of a young girl named Lyra in one of them, as she discovers that a rash of missing children might just have something to do with the powerful mega-church, the Magisterium, that rules her world. What's so furry about that? Well, two things, mainly: In Lyra's universe, every human being has a talking animal spirit (referred to as a "daemon") that embodies his or her soul, and who stays with them at all times. And secondly, through her adventures Lyra befriends one of the "Panzerbjorn" – talking, armored polar bear warriors of great honor and, needless to say, massive power. The book trilogy, and a play based on it, have both already been big hits in Europe, and New Line is hoping for the appeal of *Lord of the Rings* or *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Visitors to the film's official web site (www.goldencompassmovie.com) will find something interesting: Take a personality test, and find out what your daemon animal is! Of course, there are also a score of tie-in books and other materials available for the film, including *The Golden Compass Official Illustrated Movie Companion*, *The World of the Golden Compass*, and even *The Rough Guide to Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials* (the latter by **Paul Simpson**).

In the not-so-epic department... In case you haven't noticed it on the side of your local bus lately, those squeaky singing rodents have got themselves the big-screen live-action remake treatment. Well, at least the humans are live action. *Ahrn* and the *Chipmunks* are brought to you by the magic of CGI, thanks to the folks at Fox. **Jason Lee** (earlier this year the voice of *Underdog*) stars as David Seville, an out-of-luck songwriter who winds up adopting three talking chipmunks – and helping them fulfill their dream of forming a singing group. Lots of cartoony antics ensue on the screen when the film premieres in December.

If (by some miracle) you get the chance, make sure to check out *El Arca*, one of the most interesting animated films to come out of Argentina (no, I'm not smirking as I say that). Directed by **Juan Pablo Buscarrini**, the musical film follows the story of Noah's ark – and, of course, of the many species of animals traveling in it. The question is, how are all the herbivores going to survive, cooped up for 40 days and nights on board with a boatful of hungry carnivores? And, in the middle of it all, will a lazy young lion prince find the responsibility to accept the crown that's waiting for him at journey's end? Unfortunately, we may have to wait to find out: The film has no official U.S. release planned, though a subtitled version is making its way around to various film festivals. Visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=OoymdAWdJ8 to see a trailer for the film, and check out www.furaffinity.net/user/sysable for a review of the film by **Mark Merlino**.

In a recent interview, **Chris Rock** discussed the plot of the upcoming *Madagascar 2* from Dreamworks: "It's weird, in this movie that my character, we go back to Madagascar," said voice actor Chris Rock. "He gets around a lot of zebras and they're like his people. He's loving being around all these zebras until his old friends can't recognize him amongst the zebras and he wants to feel special again." The film (officially known as *Madagascar: The Crate Escape*) is scheduled for release in 2008.

Word has slipped out that The Animation Picture Company has secured the rights to begin work on a CGI feature film based on the famous *Spyro the Dragon* video game from Sierra Entertainment and Vivendi. The plot is reportedly based on the recent "Legend of Spyro" game trilogy. **Steve** and **Dan Altieri** (*Dr. Doolittle*) have been hired to write the script. No word yet on a planned release date, so keep your eyes on *In-Fur-Nation*!

Word is out that Universal Pictures has begun filming an animated feature based on *Tales of Despereaux* books by **Kate DiCamillo**. The fantasy tale follows the adventures of a young mouse named Despereaux as he struggles to free his magical kingdom from a dark spell. Directed by **Sam Fell** (one of the directors of *Flushed Away*) and **Gary Ross** (*Scabiscuit*), all we can tell you about the film so far is that it has an amazing cast of voice actors, including: **Emma Watson**, **Dustin Hoffman**, **Matthew Broderick** (as Despereaux), **Sigourney Weaver**, **Robbie Coltrane**, **Christopher Lloyd**, **William H. Macy**, **Kevin Kline**, **Stanley Tucci**, and **Tracey Ullman**. It's scheduled to hit the big screen in December of 2008.

In case you missed it: Check out the new animated TV series known as *Stormhawks* on Cartoon Network and YTV. Obviously inspired by many years of anime, this 2D computer-generated show follows the adventures of a group of young people on the planet Atmos, using their flying motorcycles (!) to fight against evil forces. Many non-human characters are found in the cast, including a rabbit-like hotshot pilot named Radarr, and an entire race of reptilian mercenaries known as the Raptors... not to mention a race of coyote-people into extreme winter sports!

More fun from Cartoon Network: *Out of Jimmy's Head* is a new live action/animated TV series based on the recent TV movie *Re-Animated* from 2006. For those who missed that film, here's the plot: Young Jimmy is injured at an amusement park, and has to receive a brain transplant (don't ask). He ends up with the brain of a famous dead animator – and now, Jimmy sees the animator's creations (many of them funny animals) all around him in real life. Trouble is, the animator's evil son wants to steal the brain from Jimmy's head and use it to rule the world. I told you, don't ask...

A pair of international beverage commercials has quickly raised quite a stir in Furry Fandom. The first is an ad from France for the carbonated orange drink known as Orangina. The ad shows a male anthro-bear (wearing nothing but a golden pig leaf!) in hot pursuit of a shapely female anthro-deer (wearing a tight denim jumpsuit, and later just a teeny bikini). As they seduce each other with a magic bottle of Orangina (seriously), they're transported to a wild party full of anthro animals and flowers (!), male and female, engaging in hot dance and all sorts of wiggling naughtiness. The ad is, needless to say, a jaw-dropper for

furry fans and non-furry fans alike. A one-minute version of the ad (titled "Naturellement Pulpeux", or "Naturally Juicy") appeared first, but a nearly two-minute theatrical version has also shown up on YouTube. You can see what all the fuss is about at www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHA8lg7HOGA. Look at www.naturellementpulpeux.fr to download some very furry pin-ups, or visit www.coloribus.com/paedia/reels/2007/11/13/508974 to download the video and read some interesting statements from the creative director of Pysop, the company that made the commercial. Meanwhile... Down in Australia, Cascade Lager has produced an interesting one-minute commercial (called "The Natural Order") that features human actors with anthro-animal heads. Very well animated animal heads, in fact. You can see for yourself at www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2t7XW5ccsQ. What's more, visitors to www.thenaturalorder.com.au will find a wealth of background information and pin-ups of the various characters. Is this a trend...?

This last summer, Animation Magazine once again presented The Pitch Party, a contest in which would-be animation developers get to present their ideas for new TV shows to a panel of industry experts. Notable entries (for furry fans) included *Rocket Dog* (www.whatisrocketdog.com), *Ty and Allegra* (www.tyandallegra.com), *Kataka's World* (www.katakasworld.com), *Don't Bother Me, Mosquito* (www.animalada.com), *Kickin' Grass* (www.orphanstudio.com/kickinggrass.html), and *ANN — Animal News Network* (www.mcg3d.com). You can find out more about the annual Pitch Party at www.animationmagazine.net.

Heard about *DinoSapien*? Well, here's the skinny, right from the web site: "What if dinosaurs were suddenly roaming the earth in an evolved state alongside humans? This compelling mini-series, built on a strong scientific foundation and shot in the Canadian Badlands where dinosaurs did live millions of years ago, explores what could be the relationship between humans and these evolved dinosaurs. *DinoSapien* tells the story of Lauren Slayton, a 15-year-old girl whose father mysteriously disappeared on a fossil expedition in the badlands. While Lauren struggles to come to terms with his death, she and friends Courtney, Kit, and Chris work at a Dinosaur Camp run by her mother. The mystery of Lauren's father deepens when she encounters a live, seemingly intelligent dinosaur she calls Eno. Lauren and Eno form a cautious bond, as Lauren manages to keep multiple secrets, protecting Eno from the dangerous Diggers — dinosaurs that are hunting Eno and trying to kill him — and from Dr. Clive Aikens, a mysterious paleontologist who is trying to track Eno down for his own purposes." The series runs on the Discovery Kids channel.

As usual, dinosaurs remain a hot property wherever they show up. One new show that might be coming your way is *The Fossibles*, in development from Chasem2 Productions. In this CGI 3D production, five up-evolved dinosaurs don denim and leather (!) and ride fancy souped-up motorcycles (with gadget attachments, of course) as they travel the world battling evil. A special introductory book, *Bursting from Extinction to Distinction*, is available at the Fossibles web site or at amazon.com. You can also see a trailer for the upcoming show at www.fossibles.com.

Meanwhile, DIC Entertainment returned to the dinosaur bonanza they've mined so well before (remember *Dinosaucers* and *Extreme Dinosaurs*?) with *Dino-Squad*, a new animated series that premiered this fall on CBS. Five teenagers suddenly gain the power to mutate into dinosaurs. With the help of their mysterious science teacher, they learn to use their unique abilities to protect the planet from Victor Veloci – who is widely known as the head of company Raptor Dyne, but who is actually a 165 million-year-old anthropomorphic velociraptor with his own evil plans.

Currently in production, *The Legend of Secret Pass* is a new independent CGI animated feature written by **Karl Geurs** and **James Costello**, with direction by **Steve Trenbirth**. Based on Native American legends of the Southwestern U.S., the film tells the story of a young native boy named Manu, who discovers he is destined to help a rag-tag group of animals fulfill and ancient prophecy. The film includes several well-known names as voice actors, including **Ron Perlman**, **David Cross**, **Franki Muniz**, **Cheryl Hines**, **Michael Chiklis**, **Graham Green**, and **Shelley Berman**. Scheduled to be completed in early 2008, the film is currently seeking distribution. Visit <http://legendofsecretpass.com> to find out more.

Videos and DVDs

Fans looking for a Droopy fix can finally find themselves satisfaction with *Tex Avery's Droopy - The Complete Theatrical Collection* from Warner Home Video. The new DVD package features 24 Droopy shorts from the 1940's and 1950's, as well as an appreciation documentary called *Droopy and Friends: A Laugh Back*.

While you're at it, check out *The Woody Woodpecker and Friends Classic Cartoon Collection* on DVD from Universal Video. It presents the first 45 Woody Woodpecker cartoons by **Walter Lantz** in chronological order, from 1940 through 1952. It also includes several cartoons featuring the first appearances of Chilly Willy, Andy the Panda, and more, as well as a rarely-seen Halloween TV special called *Spook-A-Nanny*.

Comics

Old friends return in – what else, these days – a new tie-in miniseries. DC Comics' massive "Countdown" story arch comes to the funny animal world in the three issues of *Captain Carrot* and the *Final Ark*. Captain Carrot and the Zoo Crew (featuring Alley-Cat-Abra, Pig Iron, Rubber Duck, and more) face off against the evil Salamandroid, in a battle that starts off as the "Sandy Eggo Comic-Con" and soon grows to threaten the entire world. Brought to you (in full color of course) by the team of **Bill Morrison**, **Scott Shaw!**, and **Al Gordon**.

For the 75th anniversary of the original *King Kong*, Markosia Publishers brings us the new *Kong: King of Skull Island* series. This black & white comic (by **Satterlee**, **O'Connor**, **Johnson**, and **Cipriano**) answers many of the questions left after all three of the movie versions: What happened to Kong's body? What became of Carl Denham? And what's happening back on the mysterious Skull Island?

File this under It's-About-Time: Perhaps the most popular on-line interactive game on the planet, *World of Warcraft*,

comes to comic books this fall thanks to Wildstorm. **Walter Simonson**, **Ludo Lullabi**, and **Sandra Hope** bring you a world where humans, orcs, elves, tauren, and many other species battle for supremacy. The opening 6-part story arc follows the trials of a human with no memories of his past... who finds himself enslaved by orcs.

Something very strange this December... sort of Betty Boop meets Freddy Krueger. *Archibald Saves Christmas* is a new full-color comic books series by **Dwight L. MacPherson** and **Grant Bond**, published by Image. It seems that Archibald the aardvark went insane after the brutal murders of his brother and friends. Now after years in a mental institution, he's released back to Tinseltown. Should he help to find the psychotic killer stalking Santa Claus? Or should he simply blow his own brains out and end it all? Read on and find out...

Dragon Cross is a new full-color comic book series from Big City Comics. Created by **Richardson**, **Kaufman**, and **Kordos**, the story tells of a magical land ruled by mighty dragons who can take on human form at will – and, of a dragon king who struggles to escape his destiny.

Volume 12 of the *Giant Shanda Animal* from Shanda Fantasy Arts features a story set thousands of years in the future – yet still about Shanda – and more adventures with the grown-up Quinn. It's brought to you by **Mike Curtis** and a host of black & white illustrators, of course.

Here's a mouthful: *The Tall Tales of Vishnu Sharma: Panchatantra*. What the heck is that? It's a new comic series from Virgin Comics (yes, **Richard Branson** himself written by **Samit Basu** and illustrated by **Ashish Padlekar**). Vishnu Sharma, for those who don't know, was a famous Indian (not Native American) storyteller and collector of children's tales. Here, though, Vishnu is a young lad more concerned with playing on-line games than he is with storybook fables. That is, until a talking lion, monkey, and bull show up at his doorstep – entreating him to help them save the stories of the Panchatantra from destruction by evil spirits!

Old-fashioned cartoon humor abounds in *Phony Baloney: Phony Island Phiasco*, a new full-color comic book from Terminal Press. Somewhere between *Police Academy* and the Keystone Cops lies this band of pigs in blue – literally, pigs. Assigned to patrol a local amusement park, they instead wind up in an eating contest they may well not survive... All this is brought to you by **Brian Ferrara**, **Rolo Ledesma**, **Phetus**, and **Narek Gevorgian**.

Comic strip artist and puppeteer **Kevin L. Williams** now offers his on-line comic strip *Mule the Mule* in book format. Described by Kevin as "What if *Peanuts* and the Muppets had a baby", the strip and much more (including "Mule TV") can be seen at www.mulethemule.com.

More comic strips to check out on line: *Chicken Wings* is a full-color funny animal "aviation comic strip" by **Michael Strasser** and **Stefan Strasser** that features lots of in-gags for pilots and aircraft fans. You can view the comic at www.chickenwingscomics.com, where you can also buy their collection books, t-shirts, and other goodies. They'll probably be air-mailed to you.

Discovered at Comic Con: *Cat Nation* is a new self-published black & white comic book by **Teresa Karvonen**

and **Teresa Budweg**. What happens when an army of cats decide to shut down a "house of torture" known as "Salon de Chien"? Find out! Visit www.terez2.com to purchase the next issue.

Serusis is a new on-line science fiction comic, created by the team of **Leslie, Hutchison, Aribuwana, Mendez, and Studabaker**. When the peaceful, snake-like Serusians are attacked by the evil Snogard and his army of dragon-like Reltions, a wise Serusian known as Mr. Chan turns to the people of Earth for help. You can follow the adventure at www.planetserusis.com.

Books and Trade Paperbacks

Fans of *Transformers: Beast Wars* will want to check out the *Transformers: Beast Wars: Sourcebook* from IDW Publishing. **Simon Furman** and **Ben Yee** present an all-encompassing resource book highlighting the characters, worlds, and technologies from all the incarnations of *Beast Wars* on TV and in the comics. It's illustrated by the likes of **Don Figueroa, Robby Musso, Nick Roche**, and many more.

Regular readers and fans of the *Elephantmen* and *Hip Flask* comic book series (by **Ladronn** and others) should check out the new *Moritat: Elephantmen Sketchbook* from Active Images. It features many background sketches and character studies in black & white ink, all created by the series' regular artist **Moritat**. For more *Hip Flask* art and illustration, check out the work of one of the original creators: *Unhuman: The Elephantmen Art of Ladronn* is available in hardcover from Image Comics.

Werewolves: Dead Moon Rising is a new soft-cover short story collection from Moonstone Publishing. It features 13 scary werewolf stories from the likes of **Elaine Bergstrom, Tom DeFalco, Dave Dorman, Clay Griffith**, and many others. With black & white interior illustrations by **Ken Wolack** and a color cover by **Dave Dorman**. And on that note... this was recently re-offered by Dark Horse Press: *The Wolf Man: Hunter's Moon*, a novel by **Michael Jan Friedman**. It seems that Lawrence Talbot was not killed, like you thought at the end of the famous Universal Pictures movie. No, he survived – and now finds himself on the run from a fanatical cult determined to stamp out werewolves.

More from the It's-About-Time Department: **Bret Blevins** has illustrated a brand new graphic novel version of *Redwall* by **Brian Jacques**. Working from Jacques' original novel as a script, this black & white trade paperback (published by Lulu Press) introduces young Mathias, a mouse-monk at Redwall abbey, who must learn from his ancestor Martin the Warrior how to defend his home and friends from the dreaded rat Cluny the Scourge and his barbarian horde.

Long-time furry and science fiction writer **Will Sanborn** has some new books out from Lulu Press. *New Technicolor Dreams* is a collection of 15 years worth of short stories, illustrated by the likes of **S. M. Bittler ("Synnabar")**, **Heather Bruton**, **Bernard Doove**, **Scott Fabianek ("K-9")**, **Tim Johnson ("Ravenwolf")**, **"Melskunk"**, **Cara Mitten**, **Kacey Miyagami**, and **Sara "Caribou" Palmer**. If you're more the viewing than the reading type, you might check out *The Artwork of New Technicolor Dreams*, which not only features the illustrations from the above edition, but also illustrations from earlier publications of Will's

stories – illustrations by the above artists, plus **Steve Carter**, **Megan Giles**, **E.K. Goya**, and more. Finally, *That Old Time Religion* is an adults-only fantasy novel about a young wandering human who meets a dragon-gypsy... one who introduces him to the old gods of Egypt, who are on a dangerous quest. It's illustrated by **Heather Bruton**, who also painted the wrap-around color cover. Visit <http://stores.lulu.com/vsanborn> to find out more about Will's published works.

Looking for a big, hefty gift to give this season? Check out *To Infinity and Beyond* by **Karen Paik** (published by Chronicle Books). It tells the story of the little animation studio (I) started by Disney animator **John Lasseter** and technology gurus **Ed Catmull** and **Steve Jobs**... That would grow to become one of the biggest and most financially successful animation production houses in the world, ever. From amazon.com: "From its fledgling days under **George Lucas** to ten demanding years creating *Toy Story* to the merger with Disney, each milestone is vibrantly detailed. Interviews with Pixar directors, producers, animators, voice talent, and industry insiders, as well as concept art, storyboards, and snapshots illuminate a history that is both definitive and enthralling."

New from Tokyo Pop comes a brand new manga mini-series: *Legends of the Dark Crystal, Volume 1: The Garthim Wars*. Based on **Jim Henson's** famous fantasy film *The Dark Crystal*, this new black & white prequel series (written by **Barbara Randall Kesel**, with art by **Max Kim**) tells the story of the brave Gelflings who battled to stop the evil Skeksis – and their insect-like soldiers, the Garthim – from exterminating all Gelflings everywhere!

From Image Comics: *Flink* is a new black & white graphic novel by **Doug TenNapel**, creator of *Earthworm Jim* and *TommySaurus Rex*. A young boy survives a plane crash and is rescued by a sasquatch named Flink. Together the two of them must learn to cope with the loss of their family members.

Mirage Studios presents the *Tales of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Volume 1: Original Series Treasury Edition* (whew!) in trade paperback. This collection includes not only the entire original Volume 1 of *Tales of the TMNT*, but also an all-new full-length story by **Jim Lawson**. In here you'll find the first appearances of the Rat King, Leatherhead, and many other well-known TMNT characters.

The well-known graphic novel series *Classics Illustrated* – which interprets famous novels of literature in comic book form – re-launches with an adaptation of **Kenneth Grahame's** classic *The Wind in the Willows*, illustrated by **Michel Plessix**. The full-color adventures of Ratty, Mole, Badger, and Toad of Toad Hall are available in soft-cover, as well as a hardcover collector's edition, from Papercutz.

Telltale Press is re-releasing the 1995 **Sam & Max** collection *Surfin' the Highway* in a new trade paperback. **Steve Purcell's** famed dog-and-rabbit freelance police return, now with new content from the past decade and a new cover by Mr. Purcell himself.

James Gurney returns to *Dinotopia* with *Journey to Chandara*, new from Andrews McMeel Publishing. Told in the form of journal entries (profusely illustrated with full-

color paintings, of course), the story follows the continuing adventures of Professor Arthur Denison and his son Will as they travel across Dinotopia – a hidden island where humans and talking dinosaurs live together in peace.

Fans of *H.R. Pufnstuf*, *Lidsville*, and more will want to check out *Sid and Marty Krofft, 1969 – 1993* by **Hal Erickson** (published by McFarland). In addition to taking a critical look at the Krofft brothers and their influence on children's television, the book provides a history of the Kroffts' pre-television career, then offers discussions of their 11 Saturday morning shows. Complete cast and credit information is enhanced by interviews with many of the actors and actresses, behind-the-scenes information, print reviews of the series, and plot listings of the individual episodes. The *H.R. Pufnstuf* feature film, the brothers' other television work, and their short-lived indoor theme park are also detailed.

Llyn Hunter is a production artist and storyboard artist, whose projects have included everything from *Pinky & The Brain* and *Animaniacs* to the game *Legend of the Five Rings*. One of Llyn's personal projects is available now: It's called *A Little Book of Monsters*, and it's a collection of (very chibi!) full-color illustrated prints of monsters and mythical beasts from around the globe, each accompanied by their own little verse. Subjects include the griffin, the basilisk, the Fenrir wolf, the dragon, and more. Visit Llyn's web site at www.lyllynplace.com to find out more.

In case you haven't found it yet: *Tall Tails* writer **J.D. Calderon** has a new project called *The Oswald Chronicles*, which tells of the adventures of a "gentlemouse and scribe" named Oswald, a mouse who lives in New York City. Oswald, it seems, has a knack for finding magic and adventure where you'd never expect it. The on-line story, which is also released as regular graphic novel collections, is illustrated by the likes of **Daphne Lage**, **Matt Lunsford**, **Mike Dubisch**, and **Eric Blumrich**, with coloring by **Jeremy Roberts**. Visit www.theoswaldchronicles.com to see it.

Games

Dragons are a major part of the *Dungeons & Dragons*™ realm known as *Eberron* – and, you can play them as characters. Find out how – and much more useful background information – in the *Dragons of Eberron* hardcover guidebook, created by **Baker, Gray, Logue**, and **Scott** (and available now from Wizards of the Coast). It introduces the continent of Argonnessen, homeland of the dragons, and describes various adventure sites, as well as providing stats on several ready-to-play dragons.

Oh boy, how to even begin... *Bad Taste Bears* is a new line of really, really weird, awful, and often offensive chibi bear mini-statuettes... Leaning heavily on kinky sex, weird violence, and terrible puns... and somehow remaining cute and (at times) hilarious through it all. Think of *Happy Tree Friends* with more sex and less blood, in 3-D form. And believe it or not, they have a collectors' club! Check out the *Bad Taste Bears* at your local Spencer Gifts Store, or head off to www.badtastebears.com/fanclub to find out what the heck we're talking about!

Obituaries:

This summer, the comic book work and furry fandom were both saddened by the death of **Mike Wieringo** on August 12, at the age of 44. The co-creator and lead artist of *Tellos* from Image Comics, Mike succumbed to a massive heart attack. Though he was well-known to comic fans for his time illustrating *The Flash* and *Fantastic Four*, it is *Tellos*, his *Ursa* Major-nominated story full of talking tigers, turtles, foxes, and dragons that will forever endear him to furry fans.

"Maybe WE should kiss, just to break the tension..." – Homer Simpson, to Spider Pig, in Fox's *The Simpsons Movie*.

Furry Stuff has ConFurence Stuff! The original ConFurence General Store (for ConFurcences 0 – 10) has moved to the new Furry Stuff web portal. Check them out at www.furrystuff.com to find out more – soon, pictures of what's available will be up on-line. Three of the popular ConFurence T-Shirt designs are still available for a limited time: "Furries in Force" (black on honey-color) by **Eric Schwartz** from CF7, "Furries in Love" (black and pink on grey) by **Rachael Cawley** from CF9, and "Sydney's World" (Sydney on a colored globe on green) by **Ken Sample** from CF10. Plus, a very few of **Mitch Beiro's** colorful "Furries in Space" T-shirts remain (write for sizes available). They also still offer the *ConFurence Seven Highlights Video*, as well as the *ConFurence Eight – Music and Mirth* and *ConFurence Nine – Furries in Love* highlights videos too! Not to mention many cool prints and extra Souvenir Books from past ConFurcences! To find a complete list, visit the Furry Stuff web site, or send them an SASE at: Furry Stuff, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958.

Help us keep up with you! So, we hear you say, how do I keep up your *Subscription to In-Fur-Nation*? We're glad you asked! A subscription to *In-Fur-Nation* will bring you even *more* of what furry fans are looking for around the globe. Find out what to look for, and where to go! It's now brought right to your doorstep (or e-mail box) **four** times a year (winter, spring, summer, and fall), and still for just a whopping **\$5.00** for a year's subscription. That's right, for a year. Just send a check made out to "Furry Stuff" (and note it's for *In-Fur-Nation*), or heck, just send a \$5.00 bill in a darkened envelope. (Trust us, it's an old tradition in the "zine community. It works). To subscribe, to find out more info, or to send us notes for our Furry News, write us at: *In-Fur-Nation*, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958.

A Note to the staff members of our many Furry Conventions: Hey! We wanna help you get the word out! Having a cool-looking web site is a neat thing, but remember: There are still a significant number of fans out there (furry and otherwise) who don't use the World Wide Web, or who don't use it to its full potential. For them, there's this cool old thing folks on the Internet call *Snail Mail*. That's where we come in! Send us information, and let us help you get the word out to over 1,000 furry fans, artists, dealers, and publishers in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan... Look below for our reasonable ad rates, and don't forget... send us text blurbs and you get in for free!

A Request to Our Readers: Hey, got a favorite comic or book store that carries your favorite furry titles, or that you wish would carry more? Give us their address! We'll send

them a copy of In-Fur-Nation each quarter, and keep them abreast of the kind of comics and media that you would like to see on their shelves! Remember, they can't order it if they don't know it's out there! *As an alternate:* Know of any good comic zines or web sites that might be looking to trade issues?

Guess what? In-Fur-Nation is looking for Field Reporters! As an on-going feature, we're going to present profiles of furry creators and furry-oriented companies that are helping to promote products and media of interest to funny animal fans all over. So, like to help out? Know a comic book creator, animator, publisher, or other such person in the field who'd like to discuss what furies mean to them, or to the world? Talk to them, write down what they say... then give us a write-up, about 300-500 words, and we'll include it as a blurb in an upcoming INF and give you credit for it. [We do maintain the right to edit for clarity and length, mind you.] And hey, we're looking for **furry convention reviews and anecdotes** too! Send hard copies to the Furry Stuff address above, or, you can e-mail your submission to Rod O'Riley at mink@firstlight.net.

Advertising in In-Fur-Nation: For those who've been asking, ads in In-Fur-Nation come in these sizes: 1/8-page "business card" size for \$5.00 per issue, and 1/4-page size (4 1/2" tall by 3 1/4" wide) for \$10.00 per issue. Full-page illustrations can also be arranged for \$50.00 an issue. Check should be made out to Furry Stuff. Send camera-ready art and text to P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958, or send email to mink@firstlight.net.

(Many thanks to all the people who helped provide information for this issue both by mail and via Internet! Invaluable help was also received from the web masters of the various furry conventions out there, and from *Previews* magalog and *Animation* magazine.)

More Furry Conventions All Around!

Further Confusion 2008 - The Fur East

January 24th - 28th, 2008, at most honorable Doubletree Hotel in San Jose, California. Celebrating their 10th anniversary, the largest furry fandom convention west of the Rockies will honor furry characters and furry fans in Japan, China, Korea, and other parts of Asia.

From the web site at www.furtherconfusion.org: "Further Confusion is one of the largest international conventions celebrating anthropomorphics in all its guises. With an attendance of over 2,000 and growing, it is one of the premiere events of its kind. Further Confusion includes charitable benefits, educational seminars, art shows, panels and general social activities. It was the first event sponsored by Anthropomorphic Arts and Education Inc. and continues to be its largest."

FC's Guests of Honor for 2008 include the talented painter **Moira Hahn** (www.moiraiah.com), puppeteer and special effects creator **Dave Barclay**, and the talented Celtic musician and folksinger **Alexander James Adams**.

Membership at FC2005 start at \$50.00 for full membership (five days!), and goes up to \$100.00 for a Sponsorship and \$200.00 for a patron membership (check out the web site

for more details). Mail-in registration will only be accepted until December 30, 2006, so get yours in soon. Information on Dealer Tables, Artists Alley (The Furry Marketplace), and on-line registration can be found on the web site too. Or, you can write them at: Further Confusion Registration, 105 Serra Way PMB 236, Milpitas, CA 95035.

Rooms at both the Doubletree Hotel (just a stone's throw from the San Jose Int'l Airport) and the overflow hotel (the nearby Holiday Inn) have SOLD OUT. Visit the convention's web site to find a list of nearby hotels and motels that are available - don't worry, there are plenty of them.

Rusfurence

The next big furry convention in Russia will take place January 28th - February 3rd, 2008, at the Zvenigorod boarding house in Moscow. In the past, Rusfurence has welcomed more than 100 furry fan and fursuiters from the area and all over Russia, as well as Europe. Visit <http://rusfurence.ru/2008> to find out more. [An English translation site is also available.]

Furry Weekend Atlanta

The Deep South's Anthropomorphics Exposition celebrates its 5th year of furry antics! FWA 2008 takes place February 15th thru 17th in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. This time FWA welcomes two guests of honor: The fursuit builder known as **Tilt Longtail** and the artist known as **Bonk**. Also, look for a performance by the musician known as **Halt of Firpine**.

FWA 2008 will once again be held at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel (1900 Sullivan Road, Atlanta, GA 30337). The phone number is (770) 997-1100. The room rate is \$96.00 a night (single through quad), but you must call the Sheraton Reservations line at 1-800-325-3535 and mention the Furry Weekend Atlanta to get that rate.

Memberships at FWA 2008 come in several levels, the most basic being an Attending Membership for \$35.00 - by mail, until February 1st, 2008. Attending memberships are \$40.00 at the door. Supporting (non-attending) Memberships are also available for \$15.00, and various levels of Sponsorship are available too. Check the FWA web site at www.furryweekend.com for more information, or to download a registration pdf file.

Megaplex 7 - Superheroes!

Megaplex 7 returns to Jacksonville, Florida, March 28th - 30th. This time Megaplex will feature a theme of Furry Superheroes, theme, in all their spandex glory (check out <http://ppmp.info/mp08/> to see what that's like!).

Megaplex 2008 is happy to announce that the well-known fan artist and illustrator **Adam Wan** (also known as **Zaush**) will be joining them as their Guest of Honor. Fans will know Mr. Wan from his illustrations in various publications from *Sofawolf Press*.

Megaplex 7 will be held at the Wyndham Jacksonville Riverwalk, 1515 Prudential Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32207.

(Please note: The hotel no longer has free parking.) Rooms have been negotiated for **\$109.00** a night (plus 6.5% state sales tax and 5% occupancy tax) for singles or doubles, and **\$119.00** a night (same) for triples or quads. For Reservations, call (904) 396-5100 and use reservation code: 0327886pa, or visit Megaplex's web site for information about on-line hotel registration. Register before February 28th for the convention rate! The Wyndham is a short distance from the Museum of Science and History (MOSH), Friendship Park, and River City Brewing Company, which can easily be reached via the Riverwalk. The hotel is also a stop for the S.S. Marine Taxi service, which is a convenient way to get to the shops and restaurants at the Jacksonville Landing. Jacksonville International Airport (JAX) is just 20 minutes away.

Attending memberships are available now for **\$35.00**, with various levels of sponsorship available also. To find out more about memberships and Special Events (as they get the information), visit the Megaplex web site at <http://pmp.info>.

Furry Connection North

This April, it's time for Michigan's first furry convention! The first Furry Connection North will take place April 11th thru April 13th in Ann Arbor, Michigan, at the Best Western Hotel on Jackson Avenue. The Guest of Honor for the very first con will be the artist and fursuiter known as **Latin Vixen**. The planned special events include performances from **Uncle Kage** and **2 the Ranting Gryphon**, as well as a taping of the popular Internet radio show *2 Sense*.

The Best Western is located at 2900 Jackson Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48103. The room rate is **\$67.00** per night for a single king bed, and **\$75.00** per night for double beds (both up to 4 people in a room). Call the hotel at 734-665-4444 and mention "Furry Connection North" to get the special room rate.

Pre-Registration to FCN will close on March 11th, 2008. Available memberships include Attending for **\$25.00**, and "Pimp" for **\$50.00** – the latter of which includes a banquet meal. Want to find out more? Check out www.furryconnect.com, or write to them at Furry Connection North, Inc., PO Box 4148, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-4148.

All Fur Fun 2008

The newest furry convention in the Pacific Northwest returns for 2008, with the artist **Foxy Fennec** as Guest of Honor. All Fur Fun 2008 will take place April 18th – 20th at the Ridpath Hotel, 515 W. Sprague Avenue, Spokane, Washington, 99201. If you would like to make a reservation directly through the hotel itself, please call the front desk at 509-838-2711, and mention All Fur Fun and that the group rate (**\$69.00** per night) has been secured through "Northwest Cuisine" in order to get the best in-person deal.

Registered attendance costs **\$35.00** before March 1st and **\$45.00** afterwards, with sponsorship levels of **\$100.00** and **\$250.00** beyond that. Hotel rates are **\$80.00** for 1 or 2 room occupants, **\$90.00** for 3 or 4 occupants. Visit www.allfurfun.com to find out more.

Don't Forget – Coming Soon: The *Ursa Major Awards* for 2007!

More formally known as the Annual Anthropomorphic Literature and Arts Award, the *Ursa Major Award* is presented annually for excellence in the furry arts. It's intended as Anthropomorphic (a.k.a., Furry), Fandom's equivalent of the Hugo Award® (presented by the World Science Fiction Society), mystery fandom's Anthony Award, horror fandom's Bram Stoker Award, and so forth.

Anyone may nominate. **Nominations** for 2007 works will open in late January, 2008. **Voting** for the 2007 *Ursa Major Award* will take place in the spring of 2008. Please contact us if you wish to receive a ballot (see below). The Award will be presented at Morpicon in Columbus, Ohio (May 16th – 18th).

To be eligible, a work must have been released between January 1 and December 31 of the calendar year for that award (in this case, 2007), and must include a non-human being given human attributes (anthropomorphic), which can be mental and/or physical (for example the intelligent rabbits in *Watership Down* for the former, and Bugs Bunny for the latter.) Simply including an animal character is not sufficient to qualify. Nominations are not limited to items included on the Recommended Anthropomorphics List, which are simply some people's recommendations. Any works first published during the year under consideration are eligible. The *Ursa Major Award* categories include Best Anthropomorphic: Motion Picture, Dramatic Short Work or Series, Novel, Short Fiction, Other Literary Work (such as short story collections or art portfolio books, etc.), Comic Book, Comic Strip (paper or on-line), Fanzine, Published Illustration, Game (FRP or video), and Miscellany (items that don't fit elsewhere, such as toys or models, etc.).

To find out more about the *Ursa Major Awards* for 2007, visit the web site or send an SASE to: *Ursa Major Award*, c/o Rod O'Riley, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958, U.S.A.

That's all for this time folks – and all for 2007! We'll be making some big changes to how things work at *In-Fur-Nation* in 2008, as well as souping up our web site at www.information.com – joining the modern world, so to speak. So look for us in late January, 2008! See you then! And Thanks for Voting! (*Rod O'Riley, your humble ed-otter*)



< Image c. 2007, New Line Cinema >

Hey, Don't Feel Bad!



< Image c. 2007, New Line Cinema >

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